

Economic Development Tools—Corridor Improvement Authority

Introduction

A Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) allows the use of tax increment financing to make capital improvements within an established commercial district. It allows communities that already have Downtown Development Authorities to extend similar benefits to aging commercial corridors outside the DDA district or that extend through more than one municipality.

Authorizing Legislation

PA 57 of 2018, MCL 125.4602-4629, authorizes a city, village, or township to create one or more Corridor Improvement Authorities.

What Is the Purpose of the Act?

The Act is a tax increment financing (TIF) tool to promote economic development. A CIA is designed to assist economic development and redevelopment in established commercial districts. It allows communities to combine tax dollars from a variety of sources to leverage economic development dollars.

How Can this Act Be Used?

Specifically, this Act allows TIF to be used for commercial and economic growth in commercial districts in cities, villages, and townships. Local units can use taxes arising from increased property values through TIF to pay for improvements to commercial areas along arterial or collector streets and roads. Corridor improvements may include improvements to the land, as well as constructing, rehabilitating, preserving, equipping, or maintaining buildings within the development district for public or private use. These improvements may be financed initially through bonding, which may be repaid from the enhanced property tax revenue stream, special assessments, and fees.

This section of the Act provides for transit-oriented development and transit-oriented facilities in CIAs and other economic development tools. “Transit-oriented development” means infrastructure improvements that are located within one-half mile of a transit station or transit-oriented facility that promotes transit ridership or passenger rail use. “Transit-oriented facility” means a facility that houses a transit station in a manner that promotes transit ridership or passenger rail use. In addition, municipalities can now set up transit TIF districts using this Act. These new TIF districts do not allow for other governmental units to opt-out of tax capture (counties, libraries, community colleges, etc.).

How Is this Act Different?

This Act is designed to rehabilitate, renovate, and prevent the deterioration of established commercial business districts not eligible under the DDA Act. The district must be adjacent to a road classified as an arterial or collector road by the Federal Highway Administration, contain at least 10 contiguous parcels or five contiguous acres with more than 1/2 of the existing ground floor square footage classified as commercial property under the General Property Tax Act. In addition, residential commercial or industrial use must have been allowed under the zoning ordinance for the immediately preceding 30 years, the area must be presently served by municipal water and sewer, and the area must be zoned for mixed-use including high density residential. In addition, a municipality may have more than one CIA, and a CIA may be intergovernmental.

What Are the Financing Options?

- Tax increment revenues
- Sale of bonds
- Special assessments

Establishing a Corridor Improvement Authority

Note: The following steps are offered as general guidelines only. A municipality should consult with an attorney prior to initiating the process of creating a CIA.

1. Adopt a resolution declaring intent.
2. Publish (20-40 days before the hearing), post (20 days before the hearing in 20 places) and mail (to the governing body of each taxing jurisdiction 20 days before the hearing) notice of public hearing.
3. Hold public hearing on the establishment of the authority and on the boundaries of the district.
4. Adopt an ordinance not less than 60 days following the public hearing establishing the authority and designating the boundaries of the proposed development area.
5. File and publish the ordinance.
6. Appoint the board.

Reporting Requirements

See p 4-6 (attached to this Fact Sheet) for 2019 reporting and public informational meeting requirements.

Provisions of the Corridor Improvement Authority Act

- Authorizes a city, village or township to create one or more Corridor Improvement Authorities by ordinance after providing notice and holding a public hearing. The local unit shall also designate the development area boundaries by the ordinance.
- Provides for the supervision and control of an authority by a board that includes the city, village or township chief executive officer and five to nine additional members. At least one member of the board shall be a resident of the district or of an area within 1/2 mile of the district and a majority of the board shall have a ownership or business interest in the development area.
- Allows a board to hire a director to serve as chief executive officer of the authority, subject to the approval of the city, village or township governing body and other personnel as it feels necessary.
- Allows an authority to prepare and submit to the city, village or township governing body a tax increment financing plan, which must include a development plan for the authority's development area. TIF plans and development plans are subject to public hearings and affected local taxing jurisdictions must be notified. Except for certain qualified development areas, the governing body of another taxing jurisdiction may, by resolution, exempt its taxes from capture during the plan adoption process. Further, taxes levied for public library purposes, which are approved by voters after December 31, 2016 are exempt from capture unless a library board or commission allows all or a portion of its taxes to be included as tax increment revenues under the terms of a written agreement with an authority.
- Provides for the financing of authority activities, including borrowing money and issuing bonds. With local unit approval, the authority could issue negotiable revenue bonds under the Revenue Bond Act, which are not a debt of the local unit unless the governing body pledges the full faith and credit to support the authority's revenue bonds.
- Allows an authority to authorize, issue, and sell tax increment bonds, or the local unit to authorize, issue, and sell its limited tax general obligation bonds, each to finance a TIF plan's development program.
- Requires a city, village, or township to dissolve an authority after it has completed its purpose, and provides that the authority's property and assets remaining after the satisfaction of its obligations would belong to the local unit.
- Allows the governing body, at the request of the CIA board, from time to time to amend either the development or TIF plans. It may also amend the boundaries of the CIA district. However, caution should be taken amending either the plan or the boundaries as the other taxing units (county, schools, etc.) may opt out.

Corridor Improvement Authority Board Powers:

- Prepare an analysis of economic changes taking place in the development area.
- Study and analyze the impact of metropolitan growth upon the development area.
- Plan and propose the construction, renovation, repair, remodeling, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, or reconstruction of a public facility, an existing building, or a multiple-family dwelling unit which may be necessary or appropriate to the execution of a plan which, in the opinion of the board, aids in the economic growth of the development area.
- Plan, propose, and implement an improvement to a public facility within the development area to comply with the barrier free design requirements of the state construction code (1972 PA 230, MCL 125.150).
- Develop long-range plans, in cooperation with the agency that is chiefly responsible for planning in the municipality, designed to halt the deterioration of property values in the development area and to promote the economic growth of the development area, and take steps as may be necessary to persuade property owners to implement the plans to the fullest extent possible.
- Implement any plan of development in the development area necessary to achieve the purposes of this Act in accordance with the powers of the authority granted by this Act.
- Make and enter into contracts necessary or incidental to the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties.
- On terms and conditions and in a manner and for consideration the authority considers proper or for no consideration, acquire by purchase or otherwise, or own, convey, or otherwise dispose of, or lease as lessor or lessee, land and other property, real or personal, or rights or interests in the property, that the authority determines is reasonably necessary to achieve the purposes of this act, and to grant or acquire licenses, easements, and options.
- Improve land and construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate, restore and preserve, equip, improve, maintain, repair, and operate any building, including multiple-family dwellings, and any necessary or desirable appurtenances to those buildings, within the development area for the use, in whole or in part, of any public or private person or corporation, or a combination thereof.
- Fix, charge, and collect fees, rents, and charges for the use of any facility, building, or property under its control or any part of the facility, building, or property, and pledge the fees, rents, and charges for the payment of revenue bonds issued by the authority.
- Lease, in whole or in part, any facility, building, or property under its control.
- Accept grants and donations of property, labor, or other things of value from a public or private source.
- Acquire and construct public facilities.
- Conduct market research and public relations campaigns, develop, coordinate, and conduct retail and institutional promotions, and sponsor special events and related activities.
- Contract for broadband service and wireless technology service in a development area.

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New DDA/TIF Reporting and Public Informational Meeting Requirements Pursuant to the Recodified Tax Increment Financing Act 2018 PA 57 (Effective January 1, 2019)

Introduction: The Recodified Tax Increment Financing Act, 2018 PA 57 (the “Act”), was signed into law on March 15, 2018 and took effect on January 1, 2019. The Act consolidates the legislative authority to create and operate tax increment authorities (other than brownfield redevelopment authorities) into a single statute.

The Act imposes new, uniform reporting requirements on most authorities¹ and their related municipalities, new public informational meeting requirements, authorizes the Department of Treasury to enforce the Act, and prohibits authorities in breach of these reporting requirements from capturing tax increment revenues in excess of the amounts necessary to pay bonded indebtedness and other obligations of the authority for the period of noncompliance.

The new reporting and public informational meeting requirements are set forth below:

What: **Send a Copy of Current TIF Plan to Treasury**
When: No later than April 1, 2019
Why: MCL 125.4912
How: Authority must send a copy or an electronic mail link of its currently adopted development plan or its currently adopted tax increment finance plan, if separate from the development plan, to the Department of Treasury.

What: **Hold Two Informational Meetings Annually**
When: Biannually beginning January 1, 2019
Why: MCL 125.4910(4)
How: The board of an authority shall hold at least 2 informational meetings (which may be held in conjunction with other public meetings of the authority or municipality). Notice must be published on the municipality's or authority's website not less than 14 days before the date of the informational meeting. Notice must also be mailed not less than 14 days before the informational meeting by the authority to the governing body of each taxing jurisdiction levying taxes that are subject to capture. As an alternative to mailing notice, the authority may notify the clerk of the governing body of each taxing jurisdiction by electronic mail.

¹ These requirements apply to Downtown Development Authorities, Tax Increment Finance Authorities, Local Development Finance Authorities, Corridor Improvement Authorities, Water Resource Improvement Authorities, Neighborhood Improvement Authorities, and municipalities incorporating any one of these authorities.

- What:** **Post TIF Information on Municipal Website**
- When:** 180 days after end of authority's current Fiscal year as of Jan. 1, 2019
- Why:** MCL 125.4910(1)
- How:** The municipality must create a website or utilize the municipality's existing website with access to authority records and documents, including all of the following:
- (a) Minutes of all board meetings.
 - (b) Annual budget, including encumbered and unencumbered fund balances.
 - (c) Annual audits.
 - (d) Currently adopted development plan, if not included in a tax increment financing plan.
 - (e) Currently adopted tax increment finance plan, if currently capturing tax increment revenues.
 - (f) Current authority staff contact information.
 - (g) A listing of current contracts with a description of those contracts and other documents related to management of the authority and services provided to the authority.
 - (h) An updated annual synopsis of activities of the authority. An updated synopsis of the activities of the authority includes all of the following, if any:
 - (i) For any tax increment revenues described in the annual audit that are not expended within 5 years of their receipt, a description that provides the following:
 - (A) The reasons for accumulating those funds and the uses for which those funds will be expended.
 - (B) A time frame when the fund will be expended.
 - (C) If any funds have not been expended within 10 years of their receipt, both of the following:
 - (I) The amount of those funds.
 - (II) A written explanation of why those funds have not been expended.
 - (ii) List of authority accomplishments, including progress made on development plan and tax increment finance plan goals and objectives for the immediately preceding fiscal year.
 - (iii) List of authority projects and investments, including active and completed projects for the immediately preceding fiscal year.
 - (iv) List of authority events and promotional campaigns for the immediately preceding fiscal year.

- What:** **Send Annual Report to Treasury, Municipality and Taxing Units**
- When:** 180 days after the end of an authority's fiscal year
- Why:** MCL 125.4911(1)
- How:** An authority that is capturing tax increment revenues must submit a report, on a form to be provided by Department of Treasury, to the municipality, the governing body of each taxing unit levying taxes which are subject to capture by the authority, and the Department of Treasury. The report shall include all of the following:

- (a) The name of the authority.
- (b) The date the authority was formed, the date the tax increment financing plan is set to expire or terminate, and whether the tax increment financing plan expired during the immediately preceding fiscal year.
- (c) The date the authority began capturing tax increment revenues.
- (d) The current base year taxable value of the tax increment financing district.
- (e) The unencumbered fund balance for the immediately preceding fiscal year.
- (f) The encumbered fund balance for the immediately preceding fiscal year.
- (g) The amount and source of revenue in the account, including the amount of revenue from each taxing jurisdiction.
- (h) The amount in any bond reserve account.
- (i) The amount and purpose of expenditures from the account.
- (j) The amount of principal and interest on any outstanding bonded indebtedness.
- (k) The initial assessed value of the development area or authority district by property tax classification.
- (l) The captured assessed value retained by the authority by property tax classification.
- (m) The tax increment revenues received for the immediately preceding fiscal year.
- (n) Whether the authority amended its development plan or its tax increment financing plan within the immediately preceding fiscal year and if the authority amended either plan, a link to the current development plan or tax increment financing plan that was amended.
- (o) Any additional information the governing body of the municipality or the Department of Treasury considers necessary.